



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue #2

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

12 May 2017

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.



News from Around the State

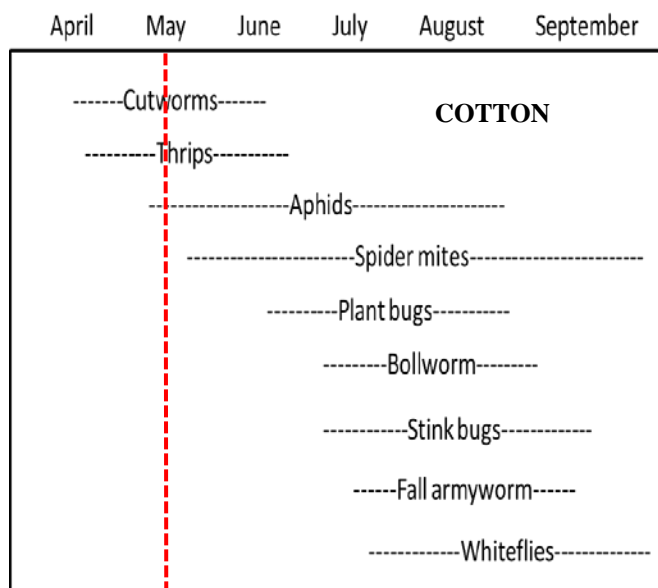
Andrew Warner, county agent in Hampton County, reported that he is still finding plenty of grasshoppers but that they do not seem to be causing any significant injury to plants. He is also seeing elevated numbers of thrips on cotton, as is **Jonathan Croft**, county agent in Orangeburg County.

Cotton Situation

As of 7 May 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 34% of the crop has been planted, compared with 18% the previous week, 29% at this time last year, and 25% for the 5-year average.

Cotton Insects

Again this week, thrips, grasshoppers, cutworms, and immature burrower bugs seem to be the main insects of concern right now. Putting more time between burndown herbicides and planting can alleviate many of the problems we see with grasshoppers and odd ones like burrower bugs or false chinch bugs. Thrips are out and injuring plants in my plots anywhere between cotyledon and 3 true leaves, so get out and look. Much of the cotton planted for a couple of weeks



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or more sat through some colder temps and did not grow very well. Those plants will still be pretty small and susceptible to injury, particularly as the “shot clock” is getting close to running out on any material used at planting (seed treatment or in-furrow application). So, those plants in particular need to be scouted and evaluated for a foliar spray treatment.

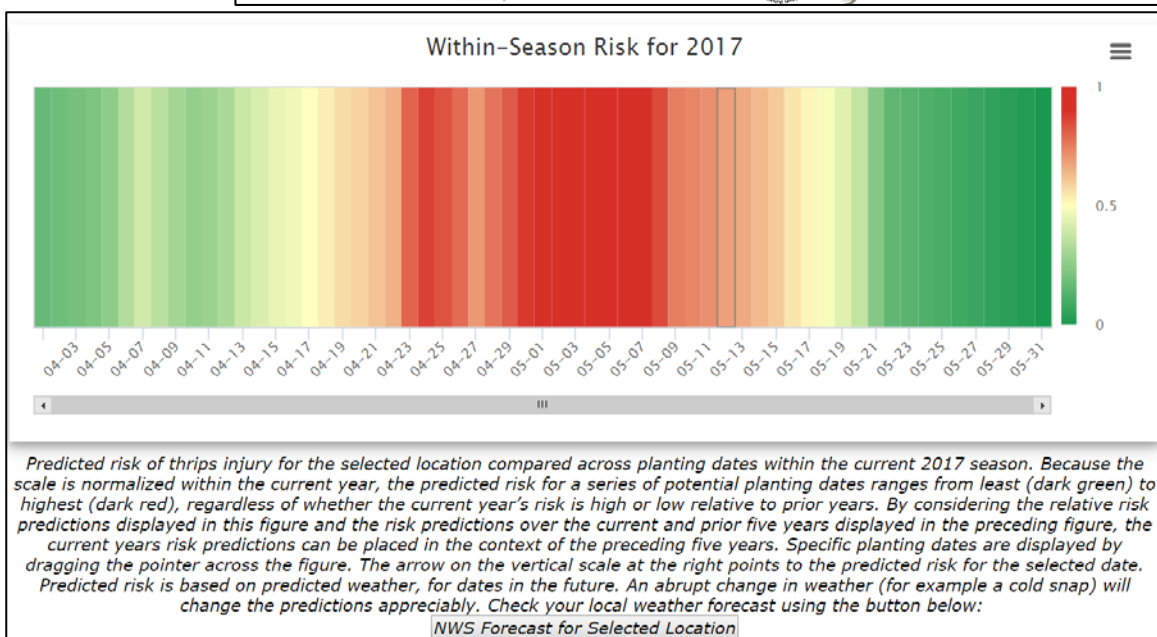
Here is the link to the model/tool I mentioned last week called the Thrips Infestation Predictor (TIP) for Cotton: <http://climate.ncsu.edu/cottonthripsrisk/>

To use the TIP tool for cotton, select your field location on the map (zoom in and mark the field with a pin, and the coordinates will be displayed), enter your planned planting date, and hit ‘Submit’ to see the results.

You will get a series of charts. The first chart will show you risk comparisons for the current year and the previous 5 years. This gives a relative comparison

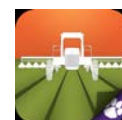
across recent years, so you can use your memory and experiences from recent years to see how this year will likely look. The second chart shows how planting date for your field will impact risk for thrips injury. ‘Red’ represents elevated risk on that planting date, and ‘green’ represents reduced risk for that planting date. Right now, May planting is looking good for reduced risk for the southern part of the state, but in the middle of the Coastal Plain and Pee Dee region of SC, plantings in early to mid-May are showing elevated risk for thrips injury. So, consider planting later in May to help mitigate issues with thrips. Products for thrips control include the options here.

Thrips Infestation Predictor for Cotton



Insecticide Options for Thrips

- At-plant options
 - Do nothing...not an option...unless planting late?
 - Neonicotinoid seed treatments (thiamethoxam [Cruiser, Avicta] and imidacloprid [Gaucho, Aeris])
 - Hopper-box treatment (acephate)
 - In-furrow granular material
 - Aldicarb (Temik, AgLogic)
 - Phorate (Thimet)
 - In-furrow liquid material
 - Imidacloprid (Admire Pro, Velum T., etc.)
 - Acephate (Orthene, etc.)
 - A combination of the above
- Post-plant options
 - Foliar sprays (acephate, Radiant, etc.)



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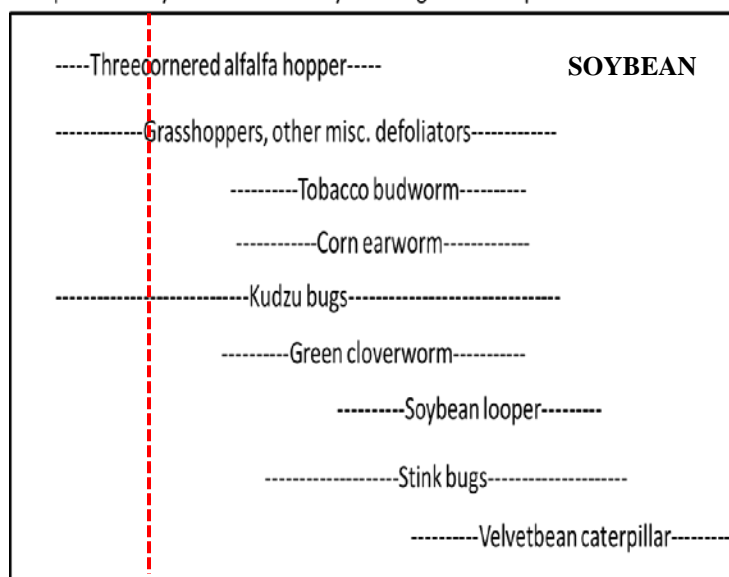
Soybean Situation

As of 7 May 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 12% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 5% the previous week, 6% at this time last year, and 12% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

Again this week, we are still very early into planting for soybeans, so there are few issues with insects at this point. We still have some grasshopper issues in spots, so watch out for those. The biggest problem I have right now is with 4-legged

April May June July August September October



critters on my early planted soybeans. Deer can really mess up soybean tests, particularly when they are the only soybeans up and available. You know what the damage looks like, but here are some photos from this morning. Rifles work well with permits, of course, but aldicarb at plant, soap-based foliar repellents, and fences also work.

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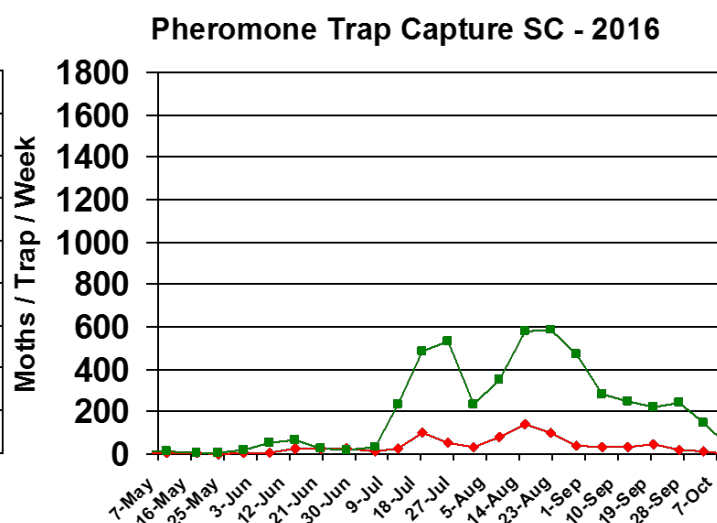
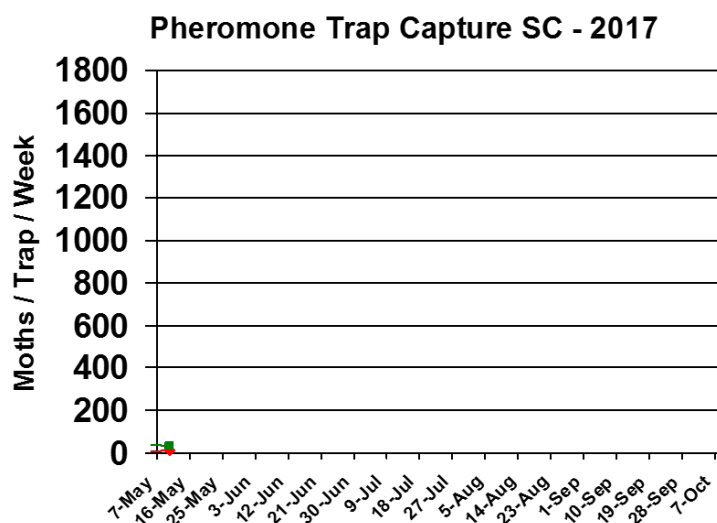
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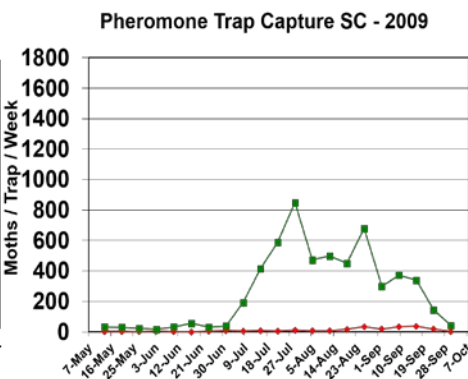
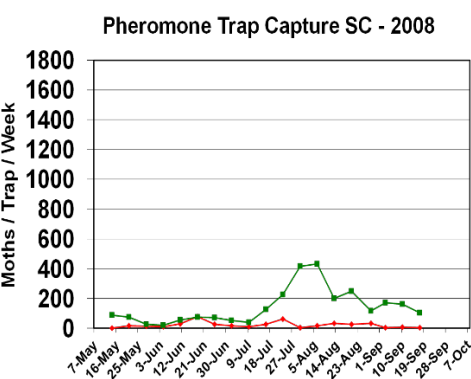
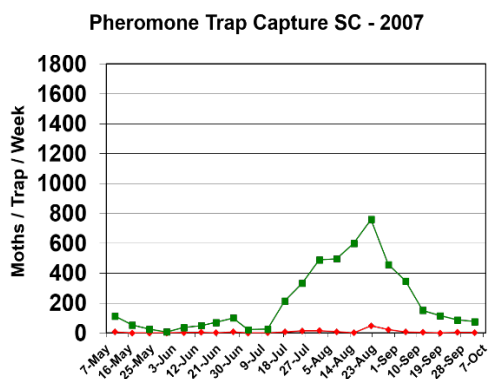
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2016 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



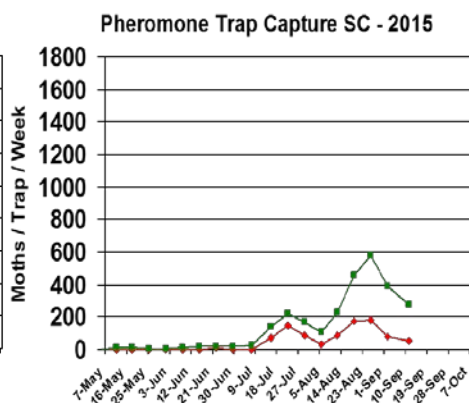
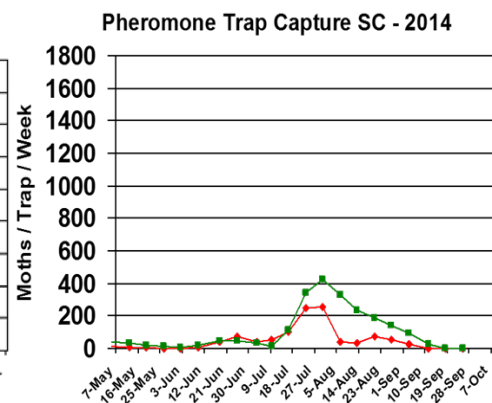
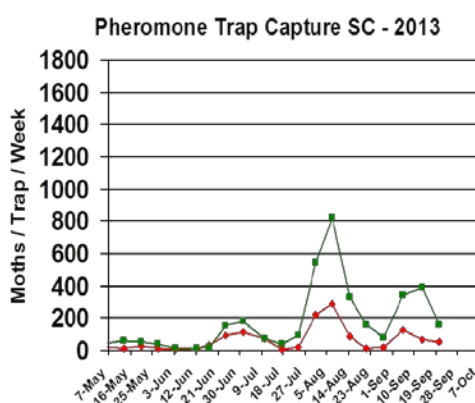
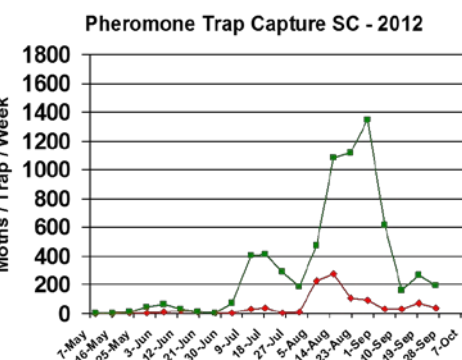
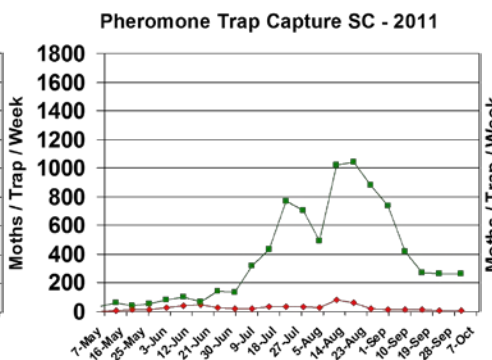
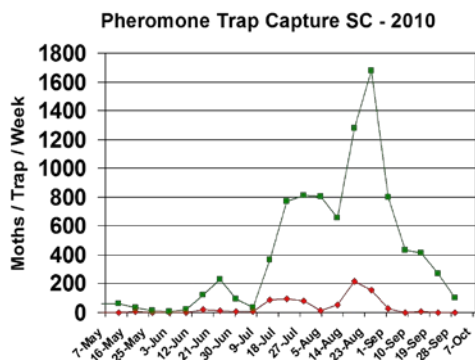
Trap data from 2007-2015 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



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Pest Management Handbook – 2017

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2017 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html>

Free Mobile Apps: “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer”



Download our free mobile apps called “Calibrate My Sprayer” and “Mix My Sprayer” that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html>

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Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology



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